



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSE OF

ALICIA MERCADO-REINKE, L.P.N.
License # NP 03665800

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or October 11, 2011, the Board sent an inquiry to respondent which asked her to, inter alia, provide documentation of all continuing education credits completed from June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2011.
3. Respondent indicated that she took continuing education in-service training at her place of employment, but did not provide documentation in the form of certificates of completion of any continuing education completed during the 2009-2011 renewal period.

4. Respondent indicated when she renewed her nursing license on March 30, 2011 that she would have completed required continuing education by May 31, 2011.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's failure to demonstrate timely completion of the continuing education obligation for the June 1, 2009-May 31, 2011 renewal cycle constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, and subjects respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

2. Respondent's indication that she would have timely completed the 2009-2011 continuing education obligation, and her failure to subsequently advise the Board that she had provided inaccurate information when she did not complete the continuing education obligation constitutes misrepresentation or deception within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on May 4, 2012, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and provisionally imposing a public reprimand and a \$250.00 civil penalty. A copy of the Provisional Order was forwarded to her address of record by certified and regular mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Although the certified mailing was signed for, and the regular mailing of the Provisional Order was not returned, no response has been received to date. The Board determined that service had been effected, inasmuch as the mailings had been sent to respondent's address of record with the Board. The Board further determined that inasmuch as no material discrepancies had been raised with respect to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Provisional Order, further proceedings were not necessary, and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 19th day of July, 2012,
ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's New Jersey nursing license is hereby suspended until she has demonstrated that she has complied with the continuing education requirement for the June 1, 2009-May 31, 2011 renewal cycle.
2. A public reprimand is hereby imposed for respondent's provision of inaccurate information on her renewal application in 2011.
3. A \$250.00 civil penalty is hereby imposed for the failure to comply with N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be forwarded within twenty one (21) days of the filing of this Order to the attention of George Hebert, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07101.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy PLD APN
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President